



April 3, 2013

Dear Members of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees:

We, the undersigned faculty of Rutgers University, are demanding the immediate resignation of our President Robert Barchi, in light of his inexcusable handling of Coach Mike Rice's homophobic and misogynist abuse of our students; in light of his continued pattern of insensitivity and arrogance towards issues of diversity; and in light of the endemic secrecy and lack of transparency that he has exhibited in his relations with the faculty, staff and students of Rutgers University.

It is indicative of President Barchi's views of diversity that he only fired Coach Rice after media attention forced him to do so. Although President Barchi is now suggesting otherwise, he has known about Coach Rice's homophobic, misogynist, and abusive behavior for several months now. Not only did he not fire Coach Rice, he in essence covered up the Coach's actions by failing to tell faculty and students about them. Instead he merely suspended the Coach for three games, required him to pay a fine of \$75,000, and attend counseling sessions. In the meantime, in December President Barchi reviewed Coach Rice's \$700,000 contract—and renewed it.

Yesterday, as news of the scandal came to light, President Barchi was at the Newark campus to explain to legislators his mistreatment of the Newark campus, ranked by U.S. News as the nation's number one campus for diversity for the last fifteen years. (Please see slideshow prepared by some faculty at <http://onerutgers.org>.) During yesterday's meeting President Barchi already knew of the unfolding Rice scandal, yet declined to inform the legislators present. Again, it is indicative of his pattern of lack of transparency that he did not "come clean" at this critical moment.

The Rutgers basketball abuse scandal is only the latest example of President Barchi's gross insensitivity and lack of regard for issues of diversity. He has characterized the three Rutgers campuses as three separate and unequal systems of "research" (New Brunswick), "service" (Camden), and "diversity" (Newark), which has unsavory ethnic and racial implications for students in the third most diverse yet eighth most segregated, state in the country. He made racially insensitive remarks to members of the Latino/a Advisory Council. He berated a Latina student who asked him about college access for undocumented workers in a public forum. He

recently created an Office of Diversity in response to faculty outrage over his remarks to the Latino/a Advisory Council, yet did not consult the very faculty who had requested this Office in the first place.

The lessons of the Penn State abuse scandal are clear: university officials, at the highest level, are responsible for safeguarding the welfare of our students, and must be held accountable for their failure to do so. President Barchi has failed to do this. He has failed to act on Rutgers' policy of zero tolerance for bigotry in all of its many forms. He has failed to uphold Rutgers' commitment to issues of diversity, access, and equity for all three campuses. For these reasons we believe he should no longer be President of Rutgers University.

Sincerely,

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